THE LOGGER'S BARK

1916 - RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA - 2016

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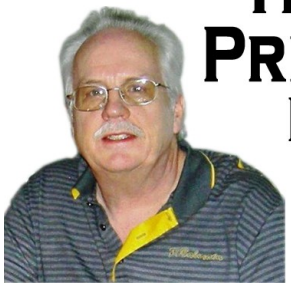


THE RCT PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BY GARY MCADAMS WG7X

Some ramblings from "Da Prez";

April is here and most of us will be looking busy or being busy in the case of you over-achievers… Gardens need attending after winter has gone, grass needs cutting and I'm running out of excuses to the XYL as to why exactly I can't trim those trees just now. So it must be time to fire up the HF rig and work some DX, right? Right!

Now there have been two big DX-peditions on the air lately, Heard Island and Juan de Nova. As a working guy who travels a lot, I have had very little time to listen for these two DX-peditions, either one of which would be an ATNO (All-Time-New-One) for radio WG7X. Unfortunately for me, they have been un-heard from here.

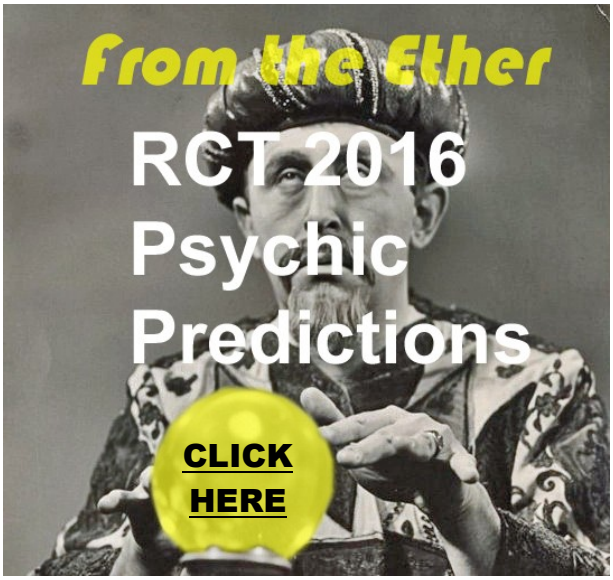
Can't hear, Heard Island... Small attempt at ham radio humor there! I hope that some of you have taken time to listen for and hopefully work either one of these DX-peditions and thanks to the folks who go out there to provide the ATNO to the DX'er.

As I type this, they are on the last days of both of these expeditions. If I work them or not, life still goes on and the radio club is the place to go and whine about the big one that got away!

Here's to hoping that we will all be here for the many new ones that are still to come!
73 Gary WG7X

UPCOMING NOTABLE CLUB ACTIVITIES

4/12, Thurs… Bark Submission Deadline
4/23, SOTA VHF Gathering– Noon- @ 146.550
4/27, Weds, 7:00 PM Clubhouse Activity Night
4/30, Sat, 10 AM: Mini Swap + Chile Dogs @ CH
5/03, Weds @ 7:00 PM– Board Meeting @ CH
5/10, Tues, 7:00 PM, VE Testing at Clubhouse
5/11, Weds, 7:30 PM, Club Meeting-See w7dk.org
5/13, Thurs… Bark Submission Deadline
514, Sat, 9:00 CH Garage Painting Party– Bee There



Just like Nancy Reagan– Prez Gary has his own Psychic Prognosticator– Mr Justin D. Nikotime. CLICK to find see what's in store for RCT.

GREAT CAESAR'S GHOST

BY RICH KR7W - BARK EDITOR

Four down… 20 issues to go.

The six readers of this newsletter know that I am a fan of SOTA and NPOTA… here's some **S**ummits **o**n **t**he **A**ir fun that most any of us can participate in:

According to Etienne– K7ATN, the Oregon W7O association manager, On Saturday April 23 at Noon Local Time, the Annual OR + WA summit to summit (aka S2S) VHF party commences. The goal is for SOTA folks to go to a nearby– easy to access summit and make S2S contacts. However, those who do not go to summits can participate in the fun by tuning in with your 2 Meter FM gear and give the summit-ers some points. But wait!! There's more:

This year the SOTA S2S party will include 40 Meter **NVIS [LINK]** contacts. Tune your HF Rigs to 7.190 LSB, aim your antenna straight up and see who you can contact.

My calendar now shows me (and whoever wants to go along) hiking up to **Mt Walker [LINK]**– right near Quillcene to get in on the SOTA fun.

The official OR+WA S2S Party blurb can be found **CLICK HERE [LINK].**

As of late– I've been interested in Arduino based ham radio projects. Years ago when I worked at AT&T– I had the oppurtunity to be trained in the UNIX programming language in order to maintain a small mainframe computer. The Arduino uses the C language and it's most challenging for me. What project am I attempting? A Morse Code gizmo– of course. I am fascinated with a Keyer that many hams have built– the Code for the Arduino was written by K3NG– Anthony Good– who has a handful of ham projects on his **WEBSITE [LINK].**

There's also an ARRL published book called **Arduino For Ham Radio [LINK]**. A copy of this book is available for club members to check out and take home from the club's Lending Library (soon to be christened "The Doug DeMaw Collection) located in the SW corner of the clubhouse classroom. **(note: be sure to sign the checkout sheet if you take a book).** Ask a Saturday CH Host for assistance– if needed.

This month- Dan, KB6NU- the author of the "No Nonsense" line of amateur radio license study guides, a prolific blogger at **www.kb6nu.com [LINK] -** and an active CW operator in the Extra Class portion of the HF bands– is a columnist in our Bark newsletter. Check out his essay on page 9.

Email me [LINK] your hamshack info, items that you'd like to see in the Bark, For Sale or Trade items, random photos, or anything else you think is Bark worthy.

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Photo Page– Sorry– no contributions

DID YOU KNOW?

In Sept, 1920 Retail Outlets began selling basic Westinghouse Broadcast Receivers for $10.00

RCT's W7OS Museum has one to take a looky.

Hamshack of the Month

by Contributing Members

I am sorry to report that no members or readers contributed to this column.

So this page will be mostly blank. If you need a hamshack to view– click below:

N9KR: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fkWkpq5XCUg [LINK]

Sorta chatty **K6KBE**: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4seCZW7BR7k [LINK]

VK3CRG's shack (administer Dramamine): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bx1PQ4l3zLE [LINK]

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE
PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE INFO

North American QSO Party
(aka NAQP)

Contesting? Who wants to hear about that? I do, and here's why…

From the National Contest Journal: The North American QSO Parties are favorites of beginners and seasoned operators alike. The NAQPs are low-power only (no amplifiers allowed) which makes for a lot more breathing room on the bands. Small stations can generate very effective "runs" in the NAQP contests. Multipliers count once per-band, which makes for an exciting format, as multipliers can be "moved" from band to band. The NAQPs allow stations from all parts of North America to be in the running for the top spots. The 12 hour format allows participants to do some great contesting, yet still have time for other activities during the weekend. Participants can enter in the single op or multi-op categories and also have the opportunity to combine up to five separate single op scores into a team score.

On Feb 27- W7DK participated in the NAQP which was spearheaded by Phil K7PIA. I asked Phil to fill in the details of good reporting– The Who, What, When, Where, and Why. Here's his responses:

Who: Me and Val (for the most part). Nick Winter (K7MO)'s wife Anna (K7ANA) came by during the Saturday Open House and tried out RTTY contesting for the first time - she had a lot of fun.

What: Our claimed score at the moment is 102,663, with 153 multipliers (states and provinces) and 671 QSOs. I thought we did pretty well, considering our constraints; we hung in there and competed with the best of 'em. Amongst all Multi/2 entries submitted to **3830scores.com** [LINK], our claimed score currently puts us in 3rd place nationwide.

When: We operated for the full 12 hours allowed: 1800 - 0600 UTC.

Where: We had a Multi/2 setup in the HF room. During the day, one radio was on 20m on the tower beam, while the other was primarily on 15m on the garage beam (we gave up on 10m about a half hour into the contest; not too many folks there). As sunset surfaced, one stayed on 20m, while the other switched to 40m. When 20m finally died out, we went to a 40m and 80m operating situation; this is how we were at the end (working 'em up until the very last minute).

Why: It's just plain fun! Battling band conditions and other stations for the best score you can get is always a fun challenge. Advice I have for other digital operators is to be patient. Decodes aren't going to be perfect every single time on RTTY (and even PSK) due to the lack of error correction; QRM/QRN will occasionally mess it up. If you have any doubts as to what was sent, have the other station send their transmission again.

I can't wait for the next contest - looking forward to the next one (next full effort will probably be the 7th Call Area QP in May).

K7PIA at the W7DK second station in the NAQP Contest.

Around the House- Next page...

….. Around the House– cont'd

At the February and March 4th Weds Activity Night meetings at the Clubhouse– Randy WB4SPB presented antenna modeling sessions. I missed the first session but made it to the second and even though I am not really into this ham radio activity– I found Randy's presentation quite interesting. Randy presented the 4NEC software on the big screen. Some of the participants brought their 'homework' files for all to look at. Some results were humorously wacky and others seemed like normal usable antennas.

Professor Randy (upper L) and Joe, Jan, Red, PJ. Not shown are Mike and Rich.

Just in: Prof Randy reports that Antenna Modeling Ver 3 will be presented at the next 4th Weds Activity Nite Workshop on April 27. The assignment, last time, was to model one of your own antennas. We'll review and discuss the models brought in, and we'll examine a few more features of the modeling application.

On Saturday, April 2… The Spring Cleaning party at the Clubhouse took place. Members Bruce WE7P and Rich KR7W brought the city Trash and Recycling containers into the clubhouse and removed all useless junk and unclaimed trash items that various members and visitors had accumulated and/or rat-holed around the first floor. While the clean-up was going on– one member asked, "How does all of this stuff accumulate?" I replied, "I've got lots of theories, but the quick and easy answer is: "It's God's own private mystery".

More cleaning: The Library Committee has plans to reclaim their space at the landing at the top of the stairs on the second floor. All junk and unused items will be disposed of to make room for a Library Usage space that will sport a small café style table and chairs, a reading lamp, and a shelf to return books (from the reference stacks) to. The PC in this area can be used to access E-books and other digital documents available to club members. More info on this project follows in the next couple of months.

I encourage all members who are concerned about the appearance of the club's property (inside and out) to police the folks who are unaware that it is polite to clean up after themselves. Sorta harsh? Would you want a half full cup o coffee to spill into your rig? Not me. End of rant. De KR7W.

This photo from RCT Field Day 2004 relates to the FD story on the next page. Pictured are Carol K7ROL and Dr Doug AD7AV operating the 20M SSB station. It looks like they used vacuum tube rigs.

DID YOU KNOW?

Beginning Sept 1, 2016– The FCC will reinstate the Morse Code test for the new 'Amateur Extra Code' license class. The AEC designator will indicate the Extra class ham's ability to communicate using the Morse Code language.

Field Day– The Big Show

Reported by Rich KR7W

Prologue: Ham Radio's Greatest Show on Earth is approaching-

The ARRL Field Day event takes place on June 25 and 26, this year. As many club members know- in 2015, RCT returned its Field Day operations to the Field (The Western State Hospital grounds) from a two year stint operating from the clubhouse. Many club members- new hams and old- have indicated that having Field Day in the field is much more preferable.

So far (about 3 weeks ago) the first FD meeting took place at the clubhouse- which I attended. Volunteers for the Food Station and the 20 Meter SSB station have committed themselves. There was some uncertainty regarding the location of the Field Day site. Until the field site is selected- it is hard to predict the total amount of HF stations that can operate.

To provide as much info as possible to the RCT members who are interested in participating- I interviewed Randy WB4SPB- last year's FD Team Leader.

Q1: A lot of club members have commented that they really enjoyed last year's Field Day. Do you think the Radio Club of Tacoma will participate in the 2016 Field Day?

A: Yes, I feel sure the Club will mount an effort. In the worst case, where we have no "field" to go out to, we can operate in the "Emergency Power" category from the Clubhouse. But most participants seem to prefer the outdoor experience, so that will be a priority.

Q2: Will you continue to be the RCT Field Day Team Leader? Or are you looking to hand the FD Leader role over to someone else?

A: I have some unpredictable demands on my time this year that lead me to look for others to take or at least share that role.

Q3: RCT's 2015 Field Day was held at the Western State Hospital grounds. Since Western State has been portrayed in a negative fashion in the news lately- do you think that this year's Field Day will be held there?

A: It's a concern. We don't know yet whether they'd welcome us, and if they do, it's worth discussing security given that a couple of dangerous people escaped from there on April 6.

Q4: Regarding the above question- One member expressed concern for their own safety while at last years FD. Is RCT looking for another FD site? Maybe a member knows of a place for RCT to use for FD, if so- then what is the criteria for a good FD site?

A: I was not aware of this concern, but given the aforementioned escapes and the apparent turmoil within the hospital, another site might be a good idea.

An ideal Field Day site would:

1. Not be too far away

Continued Next Page….

2. Be available to the Club Thursday evening through Sunday afternoon on FD weekend
3. be available to the Club at little or no cost
4. have 24-hour access for participants if not the general public
5. be publicly accessible during the day (for bonus points and PR value)
6. have bathroom facilities or space/access for portable toilets
7. have open space between tall trees, and parking
8. be on high ground

Q5: If someone wanted to be a Station Leader- what do they have to know and what do they have to bring?

A: A station manager will normally be concerned with a single band, so they should understand basic propagation for that band and be able to develop an operating schedule. Ideally, the station manager will line up at least enough operators to keep their station on the air for all usable portions of the FD operating period.

The station manager will be responsible for assembling their station at the FD site and troubleshooting any problems that arise. The station manager must be able to operate the station competently and to provide any equipment-specific training needed by other operators of the station. Ideally, the station manager will contribute equipment, but the Club may be able to provide its own equipment for one or two stations. In whatever manner, the station manager should arrange for:

1. A 100W, contest-worthy transceiver, laptop computer and rig interface
2. Any useful accessories such as mic, key/paddle, headphones, footswitch
3. Advance installation of logging software on the computer
4. Practice assembly and testing of the station radio and computer equipment
5. An AC generator-set providing adequate power for use at the FD site

The station manager should provide an antenna or participate in the design of the antenna system to be used with the station. For some stations, the Club may be able to provide antenna systems or parts of antenna systems.

Q6: The Ham Wan wireless routers that connected all of the logging PCs (except one) worked very well- which made it interesting and useful to know how all of the participating stations were doing. Will this feature be available for 2016 FD?

A: Equipment for the mesh network, based on Broadband Hamnet (BBHN), is available, and it should be possible to set it up again this year.

Q7: There are a lot of new club members since last year's FD. Will there be station operating training for newbie club members who want to participate?

A: Yes, we traditionally dedicate to this purpose at least one 4th Wednesday Activity night prior to Field Day. Additional training may be available from individual band managers or during Open House hours at the Clubhouse.

Q8: Any last words of concern? Or anything else that comes to mind?

A: In addition to station manager and operating roles, it is very helpful when people volunteer to load, transport, unload and set up equipment prior to

Continued Next Page….

Field Day, then help with the reverse operations after Field Day. Please look for sign-up sheets to appear in the Clubhouse as FD gets closer.

Epilog: Field Day for RCT members will reveal itself as time marches on. At the time this article written- there is no definite FD site selected. If any of you gentle readers know if a site that meets all or most of the above criteria listed in Q4 above- then let Randy or the new FD leader(s) know very soon. If you'd like to be a Station Manager (Q5 above) and need more info- feel free to ask Randy or myself. Stayed tuned for further FD information in club e-mailings and in this newsletter. Please consider being involved by attending the next FD planning meeting. Thanks, Rich KR7W.

From 2004 RCT FD…. Now RCT Prez– Gary WG7X in the 40M SSB Minivan station. Antenna was a 20 Meter Extended Zep fed with Ladder Line– up in the air about 70 ft– a very admirable antenna.

2004 FD… Bill W7IJ (now SK) works Morse at the 40M CW station. This station had E-W, N-S, and NVIS Dipole antennas.

To the Right… 2004 FD… It's Alfred K7PUC (now SK) with his homebrew surgical tubing sling shot line launcher. Note the camera tripod with the fishing reel.

Why You Should Get Your Extra Class License

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

The Amateur Extra Class license is the highest class of license in the United States, and perhaps the world. Many hams—even hams that live outside the U.S.—aspire to pass the test and be awarded one.

There wasn't always an Amateur Extra Class license. The Extra class license, as we know it today, was created as part of the 1951 license restructuring, that also created the Novice and Technician Class licenses. (In 1951, the Novice license was the "beginner's license." To get a Technician Class license, you had to pass the written test that General Class operators had to pass.)

Although it gave an operator no additional privileges, to get an Extra Class license, one had to:

* Pass a 20 wpm code test (Generals had to pass only a 13 wpm code test).
* Pass a longer and more difficult written examination than the General Class exam.
* Have at least two years of experience as a licensed radio amateur.

Today, without the code test and the experience requirement, many hams upgrade to Extra Class as soon as they can. Some even pass the Technician Class, General Class, and the Amateur Extra Class exams in a single test session.

So, what's the attraction? Why should you upgrade to Extra?

One of the reasons that you should upgrade to Extra is that you get use of the entire 80 m, 40 m, 20 m, and 15 m bands. Portions of those bands, such as 3.6 – 3.7 MHz in the 75m band and 14.150 – 14.175 Mhz in the 20m phone band, are reserved exclusively for Extra Class licensees. Extra Class operators also have exclusive privileges in the CW portions of the 80 m, 40 m, 20 m, and 15 m bands. These are the frequencies where the DX stations hang out.

Another reason to get your Extra Class license is that only Extra Class licensees can administer General Class and Extra Class license exams. General Class operators can become Volunteer Examiners (VEs), but they are only allowed to administer Technician Class exams.

Another reason you might want to get an Extra Class license is to get a fancy vanity callsign. Only Extra Class operators can apply for 1×2 or 2×1 callsigns, such as W8RP or KT8K. A short, snappy callsign can help you work more DX or improve your contest scores.

Whatever your reason, studying for the Extra Class exam will open your eyes to many aspects of the hobby that you may not be familiar with. And, as you work your way through the material, you'll learn things that make you a better amateur radio operator and enable you to enjoy the hobby more. It's not easy, but in the end, an Extra Class license will help you have more fun with amateur radio.

[Ed Note: Dan's website / blog is very interesting– so please check it out. I've viewed Dan's license study guides and they are well done. If I am not mistaken– my non-geeky Brother John used Dan's General Class guide to upgrade his license].

See: http://www.kb6nu.com/ [LINK]
Email Dan: cwgeek@kb6nu.com [LINK]

HINTS AND KINKS

CONSTRUCTION & INSTRUCTION

BY READER SUBMISSION

Readers– there were no contributions to this column for this month.

Here, Dave shows us how to make a 2M / 70cm home station antenna for repeater use: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RcO5WAiksNI [LINK]

The AMATEUR's CODE

The Original Amateur's Code was written by

Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)

The Radio Amateur are:

CONSIDERATE... never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL... offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs and other freelance amateurist, through which Amateur Radio in the Philippines is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE... with knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station, and operation beyond reproach.

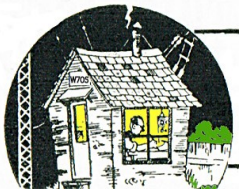
FRIENDLY... with slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, co-operation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED... Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC... with station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

DID YOU KNOW?

High Frequency Hearing Loss in MEN is sometimes called, "Wife Deafness".



TNT THE NEW THING

WHAT'S NEW AND NOTABLE IN HAM RADIO?

CONTRIBUTIONS BY READERS LIKE YOU

by former WN7BDJ - Cub Reporter

More SDR News...

FlexRadio is pleased to announce immediate availability of the FLEX-15000 Signature Series transceiver - the first heavy metal, direct sampling superhet SDR (researched by FlexRadio among major manufacturers). Weighing in at 52 lbs (23.6 kg) it brings most knobs ever (39!) to the front panel of a SDR. We even left just enough room for a real time panadapter/waterfall on its built in 1 inch by 3.75 inch TFT LCD display.

The FLEX-15000 incorporates a powerful 32-bit DSP chip with firmware that can be updated occasionally over the its built-in USB 2.0 port making it a true superhet SDR. We even added a real analog meter with that warm incandescent glow that we all remember so nostalgically at night in our youth.

Check it– More knobs than an Icom IC-7800.

Priced at $14,999.99 the FLEX-15000 comes in at just under $385 per knob or $288 per pound ($636/kg). The radio ships with a collapsible dolly and a wrap around back brace for easy portability.

Order yours today so you will be the first in your club to own a real heavy metal, direct sampling superhet SDR. Supplies are limited so hurry!

Last February's Barkie newsletter showcased Icom's entry in the Amateur SDR radio market– The IC-7300. This radio is now for sale at Icom Dealers, i.e. Ham Radio Outlet, AES, and others. If you are seriously interested in owning one of these radios– Ham Radio Transceiver test results (as well as lots of other interesting ham radio info) can be found **HERE [LINK]** courtesy of Bob Sherwood.

Other Gadget News...

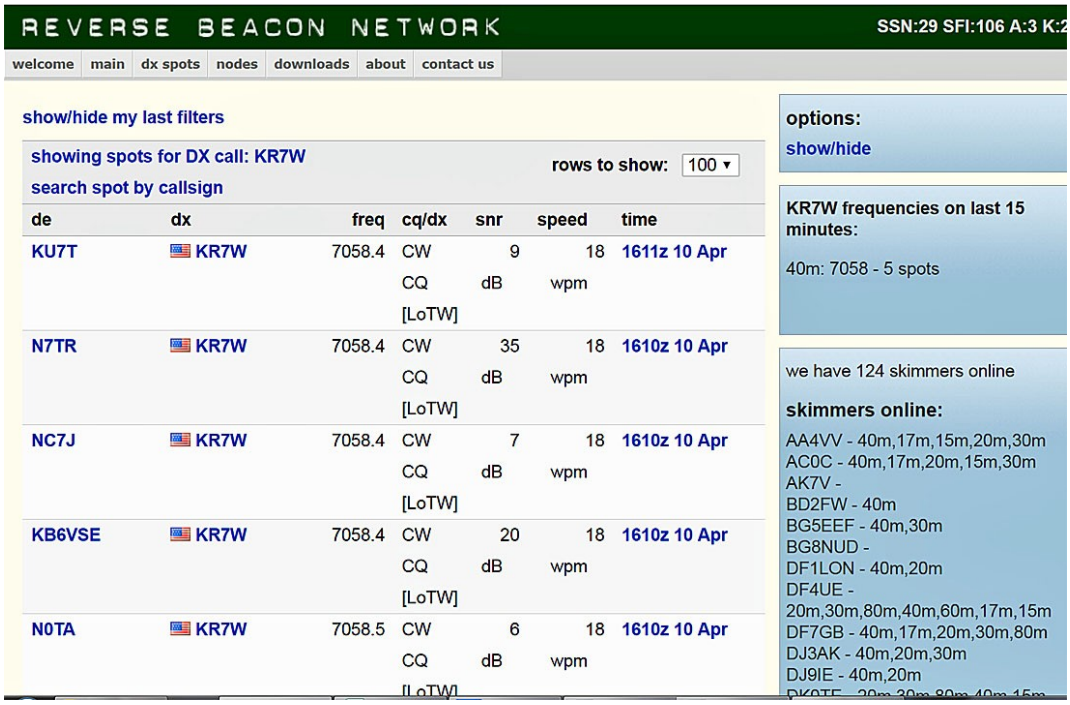
The ***AcmeRadio*** ® Company is now marketing three new gizmos for amateur radio. First is a VHF SWR (Standing Wave Ratio) analyzer that tells the user what the SWR is at station that they are communicating with. The small accessory connects to the speaker (or through the use of audio adaptors) to collect audio signals. The signals are analyzed by an ATMega 328 processer (like used in the Arduino Uno) and displays SWR info on a two line LDC display. [Ed note: I highly suspect that a clever **Arduino [LINK]** hobbyist will come up with a sketch that can easily be loaded into your Arduino].

Remote SWR Meter Proto-type. Courtesy of the *AcmeRadio* ® Website

Go To Next Page...

… The New Thing continued

The second *AcmeRadio* ® offering is called the Pocket Ether Analyzer (aka PEA). This gizmo can be used by the HF radio operator in conjunction with the **Reverse Beacon Network [LINK] (RBN)** to test his/her stations output into the airwaves. Have you ever called CQ over and over again with no answer from anyone? Even though your equipment tells you that your SWR is acceptable and your power out is 100 watts and still wondered if you are "getting out"?



Screen shot of RBN. Even though I was sending TEST TEST DE KR7W KR7W… it reports that I was sending CQ. The screen refreshes itself often– so the user can leave it up on the shack PC while trrying to find someone to have a Morse QSO with.

But first!!! - something about the **R**everse **B**eacon **N**etwork: RBN is a complex network of more than 120 SDR radio receivers that quickly scans the first 91 KHz of all HF bands and feeds this info into a web accessed server system. Example: 3.500 to 3.591 MHz, 7.000 to 7.091 MHz, and so on. These SDR scanners are looking for Morse Code signals that are calling ***CQ CQ CQ DE [Your Call] [Your Call]***… or… ***TEST TEST DE [Your Call] [Your Call]***. To test this out– I sent **"TEST TEST DE KR7W KR7W"** a few times on 7.058 MHz using about 50 watts to my low elevation fan dipole. The RBN returned the above info me to view via the world wide web. Note that the *DE* station is one of the many SDR skimmers around the world. Since I've never considered myself 'DX'… it was hard for me to realize that I am the DX station– at least in the RBN. Most info on the screen is obvious. However– I'll explain ***SNR***— This is **S**ignal to **N**oise **R**atio. Here- it's sorta like an S-meter reading, except it is comparing the level of my signal to the no signal– or noise reading. The comparison is in Decibels (dB). [Note 1: 3 dB=twice the power, 10 dB=10X, 20dB=100X, 30dB=1000 times as loud]. [Note 2: Before retirement– I worked on radio telemetry

… The New Thing continued

equipment where a SNR of 30 or higher was ideal for 100 percent reliability of the data-radio system].

You might be thinking, "Hmmmm, I am a No Code Ham, how will this work for me?" ***Enter the AcmeRadio ® Pocket Ether Analyzer*** **(**AKA**: PEA).** The PEA is a small deck of cards sized box with an Off/On Vol control, small speaker, a push button and a 1/8" jack that is powered by 2 AAA cells. The PEA can be used two ways: The first and more reliable way is to plug the adapter cable from the PEA's jack into the KEY jack of your HF radio. Change your radios MODE to CW, tune to a clear frequency in the CW band and push the button. The PEA sends

Pocket Ether Analyzer - Proto-type. Courtesy of the *AcmeRadio* ® Website

TEST TEST DE [YOUR CALL YOUR CALL] into the radios Key Jack at 17 words per minute and you hear the Morse code side tone from the PEA's Speaker.

The second method of using the PEA is to stay in the SSB mode, tune your radio to a clear spot in the CW band, hold your Microphone up to the PEAs Speaker and simultaneously operate MIC PTT and push the PEAs Button. The PEA sends the audio Morse code signal from Speaker to Mic. This method is less reliable because ambient noise could get into the Mic and cause the audio Morse signal to be received distorted at the RBN Skimmer Receivers.

A smart phone savvy ham could use their phone to access the RBN info at their home station or whilst operating from a picnic table for **NPOTA or SOTA or IOTA [LINKs]**- providing there is 3 or 4G cell service nearby.

The last *AcmeRadio* ® product featured is the specially designed ***TURBO SPRING***, for the Morse Code Straight Key operator. This spring– made from a proprietary formulated palladium– it replaces stock springs on most straight keys with exposed springs under the keying arm– such as: J-38, J-44, and the Navy flameproof if carefully taken apart. The Turbo-Spring, when properly installed and carefully adjusted in the straight key operators key– is designed to afford the op a less tiring and more accurate Morse code experience. 8 out of 10 ops testify that the new spring made a huge difference. One op in the trials indicated that he lost weight and his A2C levels went down without eating less.

Typical J-38 Spring

AcmeRadio ® New-Improved TURBO-SPRING

It's easy to tell who has a Turbo-Spring in their key. The special colored palladium gives it away.

Click ***AcmeRadio ® [LINK]*** for ordering info.

30 73 SK CL DE KR7W

Radio Club of Tacoma
Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
March 2, 2016

Meeting called to order at 1900 PST by Vice President Mike W7XTZ.

Officers and Directors Present

Vice President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Secretary	Mike Finnie W7MWF
Treasurer	Vacant (W7XTZ Acting)
Board	Nick Winter K7MO
Board	Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board	Bob Jamison KE7WPK
Board	Paul Matney W7PFU

A quorum was present. 9 persons signed the attendance roster.

Silent Key or Illness The Secretary will send a condolence card to Bob and Greta in consideration of their recent loss.
Approval of Minutes of the February 3, 2016 Board Meeting were approved.

Secretary's Report Mike W7MWF reported receipt of the usual stuff, Property Tax Bills, QSL Cards, Membership Renewals

Treasurer's Report Mike W7XTZ circulated the financial report for February transactions, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He noted that both the Personal Property Tax and Real Property Tax have been paid in full.

Committee / Reports

Membership: George K7GRS reported that membership currently stands at 277, with renewals still trickling in.

Training: The next Technician Class will be held March 5/6 2016

Info Tech: Randy WB4SPB reported that all systems are nominal and no issues have been reported.

HF Ops: Nick K7MO reported that during the NAQSO Party last weekend that 671 QSOs with 153 multipliers were made by 3 operators.

Repeater Ops: It was reported that there are still issues with the Crawford Mountain repeater. Repeater committee is aware and trying to schedule a trip to the site for evaluation and repair.

Facilities Mgmt: There was a discussion about the recent false alarm with the security system, and the need for a protocol to respond to alarm events. Nick K7MO will research notification options.

Property Mgmt: Mike W7MWF noted that the Club Sale held Feb 27 netted about $315; M&K Hamfest is upcoming on March 5; ESales will start up again after M&K Event. Red WB7EC will be the liaison for selecting PMT items for door prizes and raffles.

Museum: Randy WB4SPB announced that some reorganization is being considered in the museum layout, possibly to include a dynamic display of operable vintage equipment, refreshing the "Rig of the Month" on a periodic basis.

Weds Activity Nite: On March 23, Randy WB4SPB will present Part 2 of Antenna Modelling.

General Meeting: Topic to be announced.

Unfinished Business

Centennial Planning: Activities and events were discussed and several suggestions were proposed.

Tower Inspection: Nick K7MO reported that he expects the technician to perform the inspection sometime in the next 2 weeks.

New Business

Grant Award: Mike W7MWF Reported on Benevity Community Impact Fund Grant facilitated by Val K7VAP and Alaska Airlines.

Other New Business: Field Day 2017 will be held in less than 4 months, and it is not too early to begin planning.

There being no further business, the **meeting adjourned at 1957 PST**.

Radio Club of Tacoma
General Membership Meeting Notes
March 9, 2016

Meeting called to order at 19:30 PST by Vice President Mike W7XTZ at the Pierce County Library Administration Building.

Officers and Directors Present

Vice President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Secretary	Mike Finnie W7MWF
Board	Paul Matney W7PFU

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mike W7XTZ

Welcome -
Guests present were Walt WA7SDY, John W7WCS and Bob (new license, no call yet assigned>
Self-Introductions – there were 29 names on the attendance roster.

Health and Welfare
Silent Key: Dick Ryan W7RGD RCT #310 went silent key on Wednesday, March 2, 2016.

Services will be held at 11 AM on Thursday, March 10, 2016 in the Garden Chapel at Mountain View Cemetery. Larry KD4VOM provided a brief recap of Dick's many contributions to and involvement with RCT.

Secretary's Report: Mike W7MWF reported receipt of usual correspondence, plus bank statements and property tax bills.

Treasurer's Report: Mike W7XTZ reported that the accounts have all been reconciled and are now in balance. He also reported that property taxes for 2016 have been paid in full. The Field Day Pig was passed around.

Committee / Activity Reports

Membership George K7GRS reported that membership now stands at 279, with a few renewals still trickling in.

VE Report: John AC7WW provided highlights on the ARRL's involvement in the VEC program. At the last testing session, 4 candidates passed Element 1 for issuance of Technicial license, and four candidates passed elements 2 & 3 to enter the service as General licensees. 2 candidates upgraded to General. VEs participating in the exam were Jan K7HTU, Mike W7XH, Mike AF7VW, Rich KK7VH, Stephen AD7AB and Charles AE7BM.

Training: The next Tech Class will be held April 9/10 followed by Exam Testing Session April 12

HF Operations: Results of NAQSO RTTY Party were announced – 671 QSOs with 153 Multipliers. Ops were Val K7VAP, Phillip K7PIA and Anna K7ANA.

Repeater Ops: Crawford Mountain 147.380 repeater repair still pending logistics issues.

Facilities Mgmt: It was reported that wet weather has delayed garage painting project.

Property Mgmt: Mike W7MWF reported that sales at the clubhouse on Feb 27 netted $355 and that sales at the Mike and Key swap meet netted $1233, for a total of $1568. EBay sales are progressing under the efforts of Andy KE7RTB and Jim W7ZND.

4th Weds Activity Night: March 23 Randy WB4SPB will present Part 2 of the Antenna Modelling Workshop. Randy also announced that a meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 16 – 7pm at the clubhouse to begin planning for the 2016 Field Day.

Program: Dave W7UUU presented a program about the Dayton Hamvention! It was a very brief history of the Dayton Hamvention for those not familiar, followed by a very enjoyable 20-minute video tour of a recent Hamvention event. Compliments were extended to Rich Patrick KR7W for the use of his DVD. Thanks also to Dave for taking care of refreshments in lieu of Ann N7ANN.

Unfinished Business and Announcements

Mike W7MWF announced a **New Ham Workshops** in Gig Harbor on March 18. See him for info. Larry KD4VOM provided info about the Comm Acadamy. Mike W7XTZ advised that registration is open for SeaPac, the Northwest convention/hamfest held in Seaside, Oregon in June.

March 9 Meeting Minutes continued….

Door Prize: Was won by John N7TES

Raffle: The raffle prize, a Kenwood Trio clock donated by W7XTZ was won by Mike K7STO

Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 20:45 PST

HAM - ADS

FOR SALE - WTB - TRADE

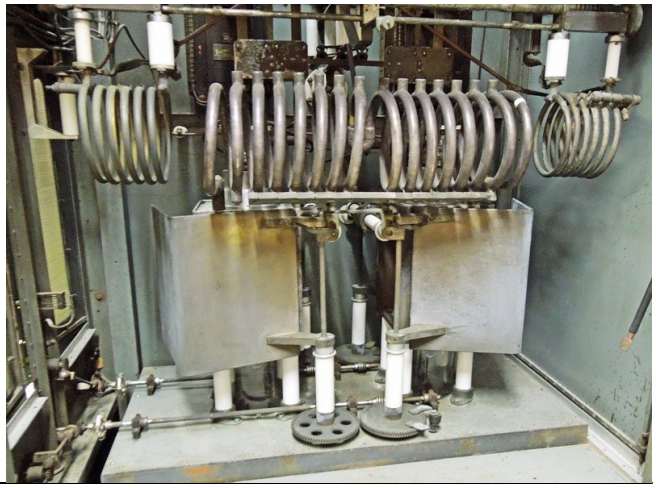
For Sale: Ameritron AL 811 Linear Amplifier. 3 tube HF Amp. 75W input produces 400W output. It's Tested and Works. This is Club property. See any PMT member for more info or to buy. $400

Still For Sale: Icom V8000 2 Meter FM Transceiver. Comes with NMO Mag Mount with PL-259 and 1/4 wavelength whip antenna. $130 599kr7w@gmail.com[LINK]
Eham.net review here: http://www.eham.net/reviews/detail/2171[LINK]

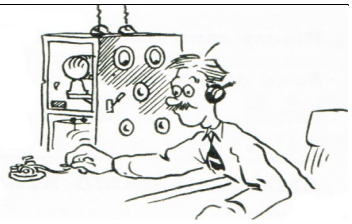
Still For Sale: JPS / Timewave ANC-4 Antenna Noise Canceller. Use with HF rig to cancel locally generated noise received from your HF antenna. Comes with 12V wall wart. This unit is UN-tested, but believed to be good. $75
599kr7w@gmail.com[LINK]
Eham.net review here: http://www.eham.net/reviews/detail/1138[LINK]

LEFT Photo: This is a Dummy Load used to test 15KW transmitters at KPH / K6KPH at Bolinas transmitter site. A is the ammeter. L is the balanced feed line from the transmitter. G is a heavy copper GND strap clipped to the base of a transmitter.

Below Photo: Tuning area of 15KW HF transmitter at KPH. The metal box looking gizmos are plates of a capacitor that are rotated via gears and shafts. The sets of large coils are for Plate tuning. The smaller coils couple the RF signal to the antenna… aka link coupling.



104 Years Ago In Ham Radio



April 15, 1912 at 12:30 AM– Two tired radio operators, Jack Phillips and Harold Bride, employed by the Marconi Company sat in the Titanic's radio room with a basket full of messages to deliver to passengers or send to shore. Some of the messages were to warn ships of the ice burg danger currently exiting in the North Atlantic Seas.

The Titanic's Capt. Smith comes into the radio shack and tells Phillips and Bride that the ship was hit by an ice burg and to send a distress signal. Phillips sends " **SOS**", the new international distress call that replaced the older "**CQD**".

The first ship to answer the SOS was the German ship, The Frankfurt. The Frankfurt's radio operator went to tell his captain of the situation. During this period of silence– the Cape Race, Newfoundland shore station and the ship Carpathia answers the Titanic's SOS call. When the Frankfurt came back on the air to get more info– Phillips on the Titanic send back: " **SHUT UP, SHUT UP, YOU FOOL… STAND BY AND KEEP OUT**".

The ships Titanic and Carpathia and the Cape Race shore station were Marconi stations and operators. The Frankfurt was equipped with a Telefunken Wireless station. Telefunken and Marconi were competitors. The rules back then stated that there would be no traffic passed from a Marconi station to a Telefunken station if other Marconi stations were available. Marconi wanted the competition to be shut out.

The Carpathia picked up the Titanic survivors. A message was received from the Carpathia that stated: **ALL PASSENGERS OF LINER TITANIC SAFELY TRANSFERRED TO THIS SHIP AND THE SS PARISIAN. SEA CALM. TITANIC BEING TOWED BY ALLEN LINER, VIRGINIAN TO PORT.**

Other messages were being received by stations that ALL passengers were safe and the Titanic was being towed in.

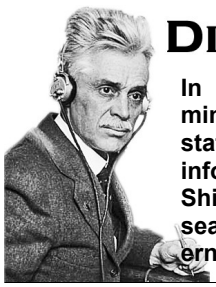
Big Problem: The Carpathia's wireless station only had a range of 150 miles. Also, the Carpathia's radio Op stated that he only made a couple of transmissions to the Titanic's sister ship– The Olympic, equipped with Marconi Wireless. This messaged contained the list of survivors and some coded messages from the president of the White Star Lines– then the Olympic station shut down.

The Carpathia went silent and refused to answer calls from **US Navy** cruisers sent to the scene of the disaster by President Taft. The White Star Line officials kept on reporting that all passengers were safe and the Titanic had not sunk.

The Carpathia continued to steam towards New York City. When the ship got within wireless range of shore… there were frenzied attempts by many **Amateur Radio Operators** to make contact. This **SPARK GAP frenzy** clogged up the airwaves with a continuous buzz. Was it **QRM** or **QRN**?

The above info is from an essay I wrote in 2008 that covered the history of Ham Radio from 1901 to 1928. The essay and a slide show were given at a club meeting.

Continued next month. 30 73 CL DE KR7W



Did You Know?

In 1915, Ham Station 2MN determined that a powerful Telefunken station on Long Island was sending info concerning Allied and Neutral Shipping to German Submarines at sea. Thanks to Hams– the US Government took over the station.

RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA

1916 - 2016

100 YEARS OF SERVICE

THE LOGGER'S BARK is the *OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA*… and is published by RCT, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411. The Radio Club of Tacoma is a non-profit corporation as defined by law, and all proceeds will be used exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The Radio Club of Tacoma's Club House is located at 1249 Washington St, Tacoma, WA 98411, phone: 253-759-2040.

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RADIO CLUB REPEATERS

Central Tacoma:	147.280 + PL=103.5	
Crawford Mountain	147.380 + PL=103.5	(E of Olympia @ 1800 ft ASL)
Central Tacoma:	440.625 + PL=103.5	
North Tacoma:	145.21 – PL=141.3	

www.w7dk.org [LINK] - For the latest and most current information on events and activities, visit the Radio Club of Tacoma Website.